IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A liquid crystal display device, comprising:

a plurality of gate lines and data lines crossing each other to define a plurality of pixel regions;

a plurality of thin film transistors, each disposed in one of the pixel regions, each thin film transistor including:

a gate electrode on a first substrate,

a gate insulating layer over the first substrate,

a semiconductor layer on the gate insulating layer, and

source/drain electrodes on the semiconductor layer;

a passivation layer over the first substrate including the source/drain electrodes of the thin film transistors;

a plurality of pixel electrodes, each disposed in one of the pixel regions; ~~and~~

at least one Ti layer on at least one layer of the gate electrode and the source/drain electrodes of the thin film transistors; and

a TiO_2 masking layer formed in at least one of the thin film transistors or on at least one of the passivation layer and the pixel electrode.

Claim 2 (Canceled).

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The device according to claim 1~~, further comprising a~~ wherein the TiO_2 masking layer is formed on at least the passivation layer.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The device according to claim 3, wherein a surface of the TiO_2 masking layer has hydrophilic properties.

Claims 5-6 (Canceled).

Claim 7 (Original): The device according to claim 1, further comprising:

a black matrix on a second substrate;

a color filter layer on the second substrate; and

a liquid crystal material layer between the first and second substrates.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The device according to claim 1, ~~further comprising a~~ wherein the TiO_2 masking layer formed on at least each of the pixel electrodes.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The device according to claim 8, wherein a surface of the TiO_2 masking layer has hydrophilic properties.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The device according to claim 1, ~~further comprising~~ wherein at least one TiO_2 masking layer is formed in each of the thin film transistors.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The device according to claim 10, wherein a surface of ~~the~~ each TiO_2 masking layer has hydrophilic properties.

Claim 12 (Original): A liquid crystal display device, comprising:

a plurality of gate lines and data lines crossing each other to define a plurality of pixel regions;

a thin film transistor in each pixel region;

a pixel electrode in each pixel region; and

a metal masking layer in the thin film transistor.

Claim 13 (Original): The device according to claim 12, wherein the metal masking layer includes Ti.

Claim 14 (Original): The device according to claim 12, wherein the metal masking layer including a Ti layer, and a TiO_2 layer having a hydrophilic surface.

Claims 15-70 (Canceled).

Claim 71 (Previously Presented): The device according to claim 12, wherein the metal masking layer includes Ti and is disposed on upper surfaces of each of a gate electrode, a semiconductor layer and source/drain electrodes of the thin film transistor.

Claim 72 (Previously Presented): A liquid crystal display device, comprising:

a plurality of gate lines and data lines crossing each other to define a plurality of pixel regions;

a plurality of thin film transistors, each disposed in one of the pixel regions, each thin film transistor including:

a gate electrode on a first substrate,

a gate insulating layer over the first substrate,

a semiconductor layer on the gate insulating layer, and

source/drain electrodes on the semiconductor layer;

a passivation layer over the first substrate including the source/drain electrodes of the thin film transistors;

a plurality of pixel electrodes, each disposed in one of the pixel regions;

at least one Ti layer on the semiconductor layer; and

a TiO_2 layer on at least one the passivation layer of the thin film transistor or the pixel electrode.